

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
MAY 19, 2020**

**ITEM 8**

**SUBJECT**

INFORMATIONAL ITEM ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GROUNDWATER AMBIENT MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT (GAMA) PROGRAM.

**DISCUSSION**

The Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001 (Water Code section 10780 et seq.) resulted in the development of a statewide comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring program to establish groundwater quality statewide and increase the availability of groundwater quality information to the public.

The GAMA Program includes a comprehensive monitoring and assessment program lead by the US Geological Survey, compilation and standardization of groundwater quality data from several programs and sources into one database, and development on online tools to facilitate public access to that data. The program is funded by waste discharge permit fees as authorized by Resolutions No. [2016-0038](#) and [2019-0013](#).

The GAMA program has recently developed tools to support efforts related to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the Human Right to Water, and Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) programs. GAMA has also recently shifted the focus of US Geological Survey efforts towards support of these programs.

This information item will update the Board and interested parties of these recent developments. Topics include:

- Progress of the USGS in its assessment of shallow aquifers to improve understanding of the quality of groundwater accessed by domestic well users.
- Additional assessments in progress by the USGS to support SGMA related groundwater assessments.
- New online tools published by the GAMA program, available on the [GAMA Online Tools web page](#). These include a new trend tool to observe trends in groundwater quality, a recharge/vulnerability tool using groundwater age dating, an application to access the estimates of water quality accessed by domestic wells statewide and the number of wells affected for the Needs Analysis for domestic wells project, tools to determine nearby exceedances of 1,2,3 TCP and nitrate, and several other tools.

- New enhancements to the GAMA Program's online [Groundwater Information System](#) that standardizes, integrates, and displays groundwater quality data from several different sources. The updated user interface, new tools, and enhanced features will be demonstrated.
- Results of a statewide study of groundwater quality accessed by domestic wells completed in support of the Needs Analysis, and demonstration on an online tool to facilitate public access to those results.
- An update on GAMA efforts related to the SAFER Aquifer Risk Map (SB-200)
- An update on the development of a non-point source tool to assess potential impacts to groundwater associated with changes in land use and associated potential loadings of nitrate into groundwater. This tool is being developed to support the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, and implementation of the Central Valley Region CV-SALTS basin plan amendments.

## **POLICY ISSUE**

No policy issues.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

No fiscal impact.

## **REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

N/A